June 18, 2013

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PROPOSED NETWORK USAGE POLICY WITH DIGNITY HEALTH FOR ACCESS TO THE DIGNITY HEALTH NETWORK FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES
(Fiscal Impact: None)

The purpose of this letter is to request your Board’s approval of the proposed Network Usage Policy for access to the Dignity Health Network and its information systems and portals to facilitate patient medical services, effective June 18, 2013.

The Department frequently requests copies of patient medical records from Dignity Health in the course of routine patient care within the programs of California Children’s Services, Medically Vulnerable Care Coordination, Disease Control, and the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care. A signed patient consent to release medical records is always obtained by the program when required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.

In order to gain access to Dignity Health Network, Dignity Health requires the Department implement the proposed Network Usage Policy. The purpose of this policy is to comply with HIPAA regulations, but to also delineate acceptable and prohibited uses of the Dignity Health Network. Implementation of this policy will allow the Department to access medical records electronically to expedite services for, or on behalf of, the patient.

This Agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED your Board approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the proposed Network Usage Policy for access to the Dignity Health Network, its information systems, and portals to facilitate patient medical services, effective June 18, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Constantine
Director of Public Health Services

MC:bnm:dw
Attachment
C: Each Supervisor
    County Administrative Office